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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,141	03/19/2004	Yoshinari Kato	181A 3551	8628
3713	7590	12/13/2004	EXAMINER	
KODA & ANDROLIA 2029 CENTURY PARK EAST SUITE 1430 LOS ANGELES, CA 90067-3024			CINTINS, IVARS C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/805,141

Applicant(s)

KATO ET AL.

Examiner

Ivars C. Cintins

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17/1, 17/3, 17/5, 17/7, 17/9, 17/11, 17/13 and 17/15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Barnard (U.S. Patent No. 4,540,489). See col. 4, lines 1-10, 44-45 and 59-66.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17/1, 17/5, 17/9 and 17/13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Jewell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,828,698). See col. 2, lines 62-68; col. 3, lines 1-3 and 58-67; col. 4, lines 58-63; and col. 5, lines 13-23 and 38-42.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17/2, 17/4, 17/6, 17/8, 17/10, 17/12, 17/14, 17/16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnard in view of Pavia (U.S. Patent No. 4,196,081). Barnard discloses the claimed invention with the exception of the rough filter in a separate tank. Pavia discloses locating a relatively coarse filter (see col. 3, lines 32-33) upstream of a relatively fine filter (col. 4, lines 1-5). This reference further teaches that the filters can be located in the same tank (Fig. 3) or in separate tanks (Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of Barnard with an additional coarse filter located upstream, and in a separate tank, from

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the disclosed fine filter (see col. 4, line 3), as suggested by Pavia, in order to reduce the load on this fine filter, thereby extending its useful life.

Claims 2, 6, 10, 14, 17/2, 17/6, 17/10, 17/14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jewell et al. in view of Pavia. Jewell et al. discloses the claimed invention with the exception of the rough filter in a separate tank. Pavia discloses locating a relatively course filter upstream of a relatively fine filter, and further teaches that the filters can be located in separate tanks. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to locate the course (see col. 4, lines 25-26) and fine (see col. 4, lines 27-28) filters of this primary reference in separate tanks, as suggested by Pavia, in order to facilitate maintenance and/or replacements of these filter elements.

Rajan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,635,063) discloses a similar multi-component filtration system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to I. Cintins whose telephone number is (571) 272-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Duane Smith, can be reached at (571) 272-1166.

The centralized facsimile number for the USPTO is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ivars C. Cintins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

I. Cintins
December 9, 2004